



GOOD TASTE

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CONTENTS

New Look by E. Glertuga	1
Local BBS List by E. Glertuga	-2
May Meeting by N. Denetto	-2
Crystal by N. Denetto	-3
Neodesk by E. Glertuga	-3
Disk of the Month by E. Glertuga	4

NEW LOOK FOR GOOD TASTE!

This issue of GOOD TASTE has a slightly different look, this being attributed to the use of a new desktop publishing program namely Timeworks Desktop Publisher.

My first impressions of this program are good and in some areas it will surpass the original Publishing Partner.

First we'll look at a few of the features that it has over Publishing Partner.

- -The ability to import text directly from popular word processors in their native formats namely Word Writer ST, First Word, First Word Plus and Word Perfect. Publishing partner requires that text be saved in ascii format to be used and then you may still have to clean up the spacing manually once the text is imported.
- -The ability to import a wider variety of picture types. Timeworks publisher supports importation of Degas, Neochrome, Gem Draw, and Easy Draw pictures. Publishing Partner expects either a Degas or Neochrome picture. Tiny pics are also allowed, but these are basically compressed Degas pics.
- -For those who use a color monitor the readability of the Timeworks Publishers screen fonts seem to be better but for those who use a monochrome monitor there should be no problem with either

program.

- -The ability to designate frames and fills as being either opaque or clear. An example of this feature can be seen at the top of this page with the picture of the 1040 ST. I first created a frame and imported the picture of the ST into it. I then created another frame with a light dot fill pattern and designated it as clear. This frame was placed over the ST picture, but because the frame was designated as clear the picture shows through. With publishing partner I would of had to place the picture on top and the picture would appear in a white square over the fill pattern (see last month issue for an example).
- -The Timeworks Publisher has the ability to wrap text around graphics where as Publishing Partner does not.

These are advantages that I have discovered through limited use, I am sure there are other advantages and disadvantages that I am yet to discover.

On the other hand Publishing Partner has some advantages as well, and the following list touches on those.

- -Publishing Partner has a much better control of font sizes, fonts can be adjusted in size from 2 to 216 points in 1 point increments. Timeworks fonts vary from 7 to 72 points but not all fonts are
- (continued on page 2)

Next Meeting

Thursday, June 30th 1988 - 7 P.M.

Confederation Colledge

Aircraft Maintenance Hangar

See demos of Timeworks Publisher,

Crystal, Neodesk and more.

- available in all sizes and each font is available in only a handful of predetermined sizes rather than being continually adjustable.
- -Publishing Partner is probably a little more intuitive and easier to use although Timeworks Publisher would still score high in the ease of use department. Also in the same vain I feel Publishing Partner is the much more smooth operating Program.
- -Publishing Partner requires less disk swapping. A single drive user can get by quite nicely with Publishing Partner. Although Timeworks Publisher is usable with one drive because of the disk swapping dual drives or preferably a hard drive would be recommended.
- -Publishing Partner allows you to view your page at magnifications up to 999% where as 200% is the top magnification for Timeworks Publisher.

In conclusion Timeworks publisher is a strong entry into the desktop publishing field. Although it is not perfect, for the price of \$165.00 (locally at Mikidon) it can be recommended. On the other hand Publishing Partner Professional will soon be coming out. It is due to be shipped on June 30th and as a regular user this writer will be receiving the update. On reading my newsletter from Soft Logic describing their product it seems that Publishing Partner Professional will do everything Timeworks Publisher will do plus much much more. In fact according to a comparison chart in the same newsletter it seems that Publishing Partner Professional should out perform programs such as PageMaker 3.0, Ready Set Go 4.0, and Quark Xpress on the Mac.

E. Giertuga

Local BBS List.

Following is a list of local BBS numbers supplied by Mikidon Inc. Although it is possible that not all these Systems will be still operating when you try calling, at least this list should prove as a good starting point for your Bulletin Board explorations.

Citinet 345-3991 *

serious,informative,big

Warp-9 767-0920 *

not serious,lots of kids,big

Green Machine 767-0284 *

semi serious,clean,medium

Seventh Heaven 622-7519

Star Gate 767-6280

Eternity 767-8283 *

semi serious,lot of commodore

The Connection 622-2593

Next Dimension 344-2200

The Keyboard 345-5930

Gamer's Asylum 767-0581

Alpha Complex 344-2442

Bug World 343-9291

* these boards are the most reliable in town, hardly ever down. Also the busiest, hard to get onto except for Citinet which is a multi line pay service operated by Mikidon.

-most board (except ones marked *) are for role playing games like D&D, and often keep strange hours, at the whim of the operators.

-The serious long term boards are more informative and used for communications, not games.

May Meeting Review.

Keeping in mind the fact that Spring is here, attendance at the monthly May meeting was good - 10 in all. The highlight of the session was the DUNGEON MASTER demo given by Roy Stokes, if the questions and answers that were heard both during and after the demo were any indication. Ed Giertuga, as usual, did a great job on his Disk-of-the-Month presentation. The Swap or Sell part of the meeting may not have produced the anticipated results. Any ideas as to improve on this concept would be welcome. Doug Orlovski brought along his impressive collection of magazines, many of them published in the UK. He uses a card system to keep track of those magazines that were lent out. Thanks for the trouble, Doug, and we encourage more members to make use of this service.

With regard to the Public Domain library, Neville mentioned that plans were going ahead to obtain disks both from STUG of Winnipeg, and from PATNOR in the USA. By the time we get back into full gear in the Fall, we should have an impressive library of around 70 disks. This isn't bad going at all for a small User Group like ours. Ed and Neville will be busy this summer doing the cataloging etc.

Prior to the meeting, Ken Ritchie, Ed Giertuga and I were discussing something that is probably overdue and that is a Membership Drive. Ken Ritchie has agreed to get things going, and he is looking for suggestions of any kind that you may have; equally, you are invited to actively participate in this effort. Please give him a call at 683-3882.

What are our plans for summer? After a brief discussion at the meeting, it was agreed that the next meeting to be held on JUNE 30th will be the final one before we reconvene again in September. There will therefore be NO MEETINGS IN JULY AND AUGUST. All of us have plans of one kind or another; Roy Stokes and his family will on vacation in the Netherlands Antilles. I may spend some time in the USA - Texas, New Mexico etc. I am sure that many of you have plans of one kind or another. If you are travelling to a larger centre, why not plan to visit an ST store or two at the same time? The newsletter WILL be published in July and August when we will keep you informed of the happenings in the ST world. See you all on JUNE 30, 7.00 pm, at the Aircraft Maintenance Hangar.

Neville

CRYSTAL

An accessory that I find extremely useful and therefore use extensively, is CRYSTAL. It packs a lot of power in its 32K size, and it's major strength is derived from the ability it has to manipulate files. Here are some of it's major features: - customise the program to your choice by running the INSTALL program. - format a disk - rename drives - rename files - copy files - print text files, with headers, footers, and page numbers - view text files - get information about file size - obtain the number of free bytes available on the disk - print a disk directory in columns (up to a maximum of 6) - configure your printer so that the harcopy output can be varied(make sure that you have the printer codes handy) - make folders - delete folders - delete files

All these operations are carried out by means of ICONS (or by using the Function Keys if you enjoy punishing yourself!). An extensive .DOC file comes on disk for refreshing your memory at short notice. ANTIC Publishing \$29.95.

* NEODESK - THE GEM ALTERNATIVE *

What, another desk accessory. WRONG!!! NeoDesk is an icon based program That takes up about 145K of RAM on the ST computer. 145K?! That's so much RAM! Well, let's put it another way, how many desk accessories do you have to load to format disks, copy files and perform a host of other I/O functions? Probably a bunch and that means eating up RAM too! Here is a sampling of what NeoDesk can do for you

For starters :Handles seven windows up at one time. Built in Icon Editor. Fast file copies (Smart too, tells you how many disk swaps!) Lets you batch print your documents and change the order while printing. You can drag your program icons onto the desktop without the irritating "You cannot drag files onto desktop!".

NeoDesk is not copy protected so it's can be installed on

a hard disk system. NeoDesk can replace extended formatters, When you click on format from the desktop up pops a window that gives you the choice of 9 or 10 sectors per track and 80 or 81 tracks.

Another feature is that when you are copying files and you change your mind and want to abort the copy, you simply press UNDO or Control C and it will stop.

There are some limitations though, for instance, you can only have 18 drive icons on screen at one time (Who in the world has 18 disk drives!). You can only have 64 icons visible at once . And only 112 viewable files in any one sub-directory! You must use the icons, there is no option to have your files and folders displayed as text and Neodesk does not support low resolution.

Neodesk gives you many features at your fingertips. If you were to add up all the desk accessories available and used them all at once, you would probably use as much or more memory than NeoDesk uses.

Following are highlights from a Neodesk press release.

What's would give more than anything to see on your ST? What about the desktop of your dreams?

Ne o D e s k, the Desktop Alternative (copyright 1988, Gribnif Software)

Here is a SHORT list of some of the features:

[o] Icons used are editable and an icon editor is included.

[o] All menu options have keyboard equivalents!

[o] The normal GEM "rubberbox" that is used to encircle a number of icons has been rewritten so that the box can move in any direction, not just to the lower-right!

[o] Up to 7 windows can be open at once, not just 4.

[o] Each window can have a search template associated with it. If, for instance, you only wanted to see those files ending in .ACC, you would set this to "*.ACC".

[o] No horizontal scroll bar. Why not? Simply because there are never any files off the right-hand edge! NeoDesk always draws exactly the number of files that will fit within the window and wraps to the next row .

[o] The information line in a window not only displays the number of files and their total size, it also displays the creation time, date and read/write flag of any file that is selected by itself (by single-clicking) or the total size of any number of selected files.

[o] When performing a diskcopy, three options are available: copy files only (same as dragging icon to a window), copy with format (any format reproduceable with normal GEMDOS calls), and, if the source and destination formats match, copy without format. The number of disk swaps is dependent upon free RAM and is displayed for each type of copy. It is even possible to use copy with format to make a direct image of a RAM-disk.

[o] File copying is performed in a buffer as large as the current free memory. This means faster copying and fewer disk swaps on single-drive systems!

[o] Show Information for disks includes the number of sides, sectors per track, tracks per sector, etc.

[o] Numerous floppy-disk formats are available, rather than just one.

[o] All files on a disk can be deleted without re-formatting by merely dragging the appropriate icon to the trashcan.

[o] Up to ten environment strings can be defined. These are passed to any program executed from NeoDesk. At last! You can compile from the desktop!

[o] The parameter tail for TTP programs has been expanded to a maximum of 128 characters. They are not mapped to uppercase, as Atari's desktop does.

[o] Execution of TTP programs can be redirected so that input normally taken from the console is instead taken from a file or so that anything that normally goes to the output portion of the console is written to a file or the printer!

[o] Install Application WORKS! ('nuf said?)

[o] If one or more filename icons are highlighted when an application is opened, their names are automatically passed as parameters in the command tail, assuming they all fit, of course.

[o] Yes, Virginia, it runs batch files!

[o] Up to ten files of any type can be "dragged" to the desktop. Once there, they can be executed or displayed exactly as if they were in a window, so you don't have to keep going down 5 folders just to get to your favorite program.

[o] When an application has terminated with any status other than zero, this number is displayed before returning to the desktop.

[o] An option is available to pause after executing TOS and TTP programs. Too often programs that were written to be used in a shell do not do this and their output is erased before the user has a chance to see a bloody thing.

[o] Pressing the <Control> <Alt> and <Delete> keys simultaneously will cause the system to perform a "warm-start". <Control> <Alt> <Undo>, on the other hand, performs a cold-start.

[o] A printer queue program is also included. You can drag files right to the printer icon, go run any GEM program while they print, and even change their order in the list!

Gribnif Software P.O. Box 350 Hadley, MA 01035 (413) 584-7887 (price \$29.95 U.S.A.)

JUNE DISK-A-MONTH CONTENTS

The programs included on the June disk are as follows:

BOG-The spelling game of Boggle, see if you can find more words in the matrix than the computer can.

CHKDSK-Check on your disk, floppy or hard, - gives you detailed, or abbreviated -listings of information regarding what programs are on the disk, where they reside, bad sectors, if any, FAT information, etc.

COLUMNPR-This program prints text (ASCII) files and 1st Word files in a magazine style format - excellent for program listings, BBS captures, program documentation customizing, etc. Works with most printers.

DESKMG21-Desk Manager allows you to choose AUTO programs and accessories - this is the only program of its type that lets you use the mouse to make your selections, even though it runs from the AUTO folder. Very quick and easy to use - uses less than 7k of space.

DIGEDIT-For editing and listening to DIGISOUND files.

GROUP-A disk cataloging program - invoke with no arguments for instructions. Will sort disks in various ways - saves to a standard ASCII file - run LIST.TTP first, and then sort with GROUP.TTP.

LINESINE-A very pretty graphics demonstration with lots of user control. The picture is addictive and fun to play with.

LUTILS Some very good shareware here from Keith Ledbetter, the author of BBS Express ST - contains L-RAM, a reset-proof, large memory RAMdisk; L-CACHE, a highly configurable disk cache system; L-CONFIG, a GEM based program used to configure both RAMdisk and the cache. Also includes L-STATS, which prints the current cache statistics.

THEACC-Allows all desktop functions, such as copying and erasing files, creation and erasing of folders, disk copying, formatting, renaming, set file attributes, get disk free space, print a hardcopy of a directory, and set write verify on or off. Includes a customized file directory.

TINYBOOT-Instead of sitting there looking at a blank screen while your computer is booting up, this program will automatically boot up Tiny format pictures that you select during the bootup process.

See a demo of this disk at the June 30th meeting, price \$4.00.

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